

Amendment
Serial No. 09/980,659
Attorney Docket No. 062017

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Replacement sheets (three sheets) of drawing depicting all of prior drawings are attached.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are cancelled in this application. New claims 25 – 34 have been added. Support for the new claims 25, 26 and 31 are Figs. 3A and 3B. Support for the new claims 27-30, and 32 are Figs. 9A and 9B.

Drawings Objections

The drawings were objected to because of the following informalities:

Figs. 1-3 and 9

Drawings Must Show Claimed Subject Matter

Other Drawing Objections

Accordingly, Figs 1-3 and 9 are amended. The new drawings show the two separate subfigures of each figure with a new figure label (i.e., Figs. 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, 9A and 9B).

In Figs 1-3, and 9, an underlying material to be sealed are added by dashed line (31, 32, 33, and 34) surrounding each seal lines 2, 7, 10 and 24.

The Office Action states that the drawings currently only show electrode areas with a uniform surface area – not a non uniform surface area. Applicant respectfully submits that Fig. 3A shows the broadened electrode portions being non-uniform in surface area. More particularly, electrode portions 8 and 9 are non-uniform in surface area in Fig. 3A.

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The Examiner has requested amendment of Fig. 5 to be designated as -- Prior Art --. A Replacement Sheet is attached hereto making this suggested amendment.

It is believed that the replacement drawings are in full compliance.

Disclosure Objections

The disclosure is objected to because of informalities.

Accordingly, the informalities in the specification which were noted in the Office Action have been corrected, as set forth in the substitute specification. No new matter is added.

The informality on P. 5, lines 15-22 is shown in P. 4, lines 8-16 in the Substitute Specification (marked up version).

The informality of on P. 5, line 17, "for such as PP" is corrected to "for such as polypropylene."

The informality on P. 6, line 23, the comma after "from" was deleted.

The informality on P. 6, line 12, the comma after gaps cannot be found in the specification.

It is believed that the amended specification is in full compliance.

Claim Objections

Claim 16 is cancelled.

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Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-6, 14, 16 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-24 are cancelled. However, the same claim element "a press mechanism ..." is recited in claims 25 and 27. The rejected phrase "the appropriate machine supporting mechanisms" is simply deleted from the same claim element "a press mechanism ...".

It is believed that the amended claims are in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 3-5, 17-19, 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Kettelhoit* (U.S. Patent No. 4,790,901).

Claims 1-24 are cancelled. However, the zigzag electric heater is recited in new claims 27 -34. Therefore, Applicant respectfully states the difference between *Kettelhoit* and claims 27-34 in this application.

Kettelhoit discloses only a laminator, not a heat sealer. Indeed, both laminators and heat sealers have a sealing function. However, the laminator in *Kettelhoit* (and regular laminators)

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seals such a card for producing identification cards. Accordingly, laminators in *Kettelhoit* seal a large portion of sheets to laminate such a card between sheets, while the current invention does not seal anything between sheets (such as plastic bags) and does seal the sheets by a narrow sealed line. Therefore, how the edge of the sealed lines is sealed is the main focus for the current invention. According to the specification, one of objects of the invention is to eliminate the drawback of swelling in a seal line. To achieve this object, the zigzag in this invention is interrupted immediately before the electrode portions at both ends thereof and is restored to the original width of the electrode portions (Claim 28). Claim 28 is added and as shown in Fig. 9A, the zigzag is interrupted immediately before the electrode portions at both ends. The current-conductive strips 14 in *Kettelhoit* continues up to the electrode portions and does not disclose a zigzag heater wire of which the zigzag is interrupted immediately before the electrode portions at both ends.

Further, in order to solve a problem of heating wire expansion and contraction due to heat, the current invention sets forth in claim 29, "the (zigzag shaped) heating wire is fixed while expanded on the press mechanism so as to absorb the expansion and contraction of the wire due to heat." *Kettelhoit* does not disclose this feature.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserted that the present invention is not anticipated from *Kettelhoit*.

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Joint Inventors – Common Ownership Presumed

Applicant respectfully states the current invention was commonly owned by the inventors (Applicant) at the time of invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 2, 7-11, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kettelhoit* et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,790,901) in view of Simpson (U.S. Patent No. 1,975,410).

Claims 1-24 are cancelled and new claims 25-34 have been added. *Kettelhoit* discloses only a laminator that is different from a heat sealer in current invention as set forth above. Therefore, claims 25-34 are not obvious over *Kettelhoit* in view of Simpson and other prior art references cited in the Office Action.

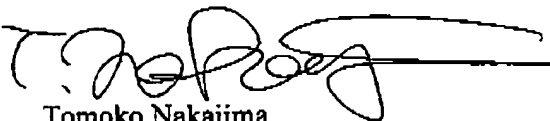
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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TN/mt

Attachment: Replacement Sheets of drawings (Figs 1A-14)
Substitute Specification (clean version & marked-up version)
Petition for Extension of Time